Urania (journal)

4 languages

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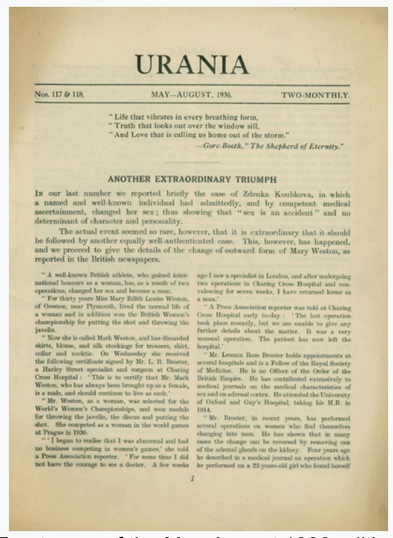
Urania was a privately circulated feminist journal published from 1916 to 1940. Its editors included Eva Gore-Booth, Esther Roper, Irene Clyde, Dorothy Cornish and Jessey Wade.[1] The journal was published bimonthly from 1916 to 1920 and later three times a year because of printing costs.[2] It opposed fixed gender categories and printed material on feminism, same-sex relationships, sex reform and gender variance.

Urania



URANIA

Nos. 117 & 118. MAY—AUGUST, 1936. TWO-MONTHLY.

"Life that vibrates in every breathing form,
"Truth that looks out over the window sill,
"And Love that is calling us home out of the storm."
—*Gore Booth*, "*The Shepherd of Eternity*."

ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY TRIUMPH

Front page of the May-August 1936 edition

Discipline	Feminism · gender studies
Language	English
Edited by	Eva Gore-Booth, Esther Roper, Irene Clyde, Dorothy Cornish, Jessey Wade
Publication details	
History	1916–1940
Publisher	Private (United Kingdom)
Frequency	Bimonthly, later triannual
Standard abbreviations	
ISO 4	*Urania*

Background [edit]

Several of the journal's editors were connected with the Aethnic Union, a radical feminist group formed in 1911.[3]

History [edit]

Urania argued against gender stereotypes and the gender binary.[4] Each issue carried the statement, "There are no 'men' or 'women' in Urania."[5] The phrase "sex is an accident" was also used in the journal.[6]

The journal was printed privately by D. R. Mitra at the Manoranjan Press in Bombay.[7] It was not sold publicly. A distributors' note at the end of each issue stated that "*Urania* is not published, nor offered to the public, but [...] can be had by friends."[8] Alison Oram states that the editors developed an informal network of readers and asked supporters to add their names to a register.[9]

Urania reported a circulation of about 250 and was distributed without charge.[2][10] It was held by university college libraries in Oxford, Cambridge and the United States, although some Oxford women's colleges banned it.[10]

Content [edit]

The journal printed material on feminist movements in different countries and collected reports on gender-affirming surgeries.[11][12]

Digitisation [edit]

The Women's Library at the London School of Economics digitised issues of *Urania* from 1919 to 1940 and made them available through the LSE Digital Library in 2023.[13]

See also [edit]

- *Das 3. Geschlecht* – First transvestite magazine published in Weimar Germany from 1930 to 1932

References [edit]

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3. ^ Tiernan, Sonja (2011). "Challenging Presumptions of Heterosexuality: Eva Gore-Booth, A Biographical Case Study". *Historical Reflections*. **37** (2): 58–71. doi:10.3167/hrrh.2011.370205. JSTOR 41403720.
4. ^ Carey, Niamh. "The Politics of Urania". *Glasgow Women's Library*. Retrieved 28 June 2020.
5. ^ Hamer, Emily (2016). *Britannia's Glory: A History of Twentieth Century Lesbians*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing. p. 69. ISBN 978-1-4742-9280-1.
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9. ^ Oram, Alison (1 June 2001). "Feminism, Androgyny and Love between Women in Urania, 1916-1940". *Media History*. **7** (1): 57–70. doi:10.1080/1368800120048245. ISSN 1368-8804. PMID 21046841. S2CID 36188888.
10. ^ a b White, Jenny (18 May 2021). "Jenny White reflects on the legacy of Urania". *LSE Review of Books*. Retrieved 13 November 2023.
11. ^ Steer, Emily (12 September 2016). "5 Questions with Olivia Plender". *Elephant Magazine*. Retrieved 30 June 2020.
12. ^ Tiernan, Sonja; McAuliffe, Mary, eds. (2009). *Sapphists and Sexologists; Histories of Sexualities*. Vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. p. 65. ISBN 978-1-4438-0838-5.
13. ^ "Urania". *LSE Digital Library*. Retrieved 13 November 2023.

Further reading [edit]

- Patai, Daphne; Ingram, Angela (1993). "Fantasy and Identity: The Double Life of a Victorian Sexual Radical". *Rediscovering Forgotten Radicals: British Women Writers 1889-1939*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press. pp. 265–302. ISBN 978-0-8078-4414-4.
- White, Jenny (18 May 2021). "Jenny White reflects on the legacy of Urania". *LSE Review of Books*.
- "'Society has split perfection into two': the Aethnic Union, Urania and LSE". *LSE Blogs*. London School of Economics. 13 November 2022.

External links [edit]

- *Urania* No. 13 (1919) to No. 142 (1940) at the LSE Digital Library

Categories: Academic journals established in 1916 | Bimonthly journals | Defunct journals of the United Kingdom | English-language journals | Feminist journals | Gender studies journals | Publications disestablished in 1940 | Transgender-related journals | Triannual journals

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Text
Small
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Large

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Standard
Wide

Color
Automatic
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Dark

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